

In the flatter interior of the United States, centering on Arkansas and Oklahoma, but extending locally eastward to western Florida, northeastward to Illinois, northward to South Dakota and Wyoming and southwestward to New Mexico, much of the material passing as *Festuca octoflora* has a crowded inflorescence, the spikelets imbricated, and the awns of the lemmas greatly reduced or quite wanting, varying from mere mucronate tips to a length of 2 mm., while the glumes are even shorter than in the other varieties, the lower 1.5–3 mm. long. This extreme proves to be *F. tenella*  $\beta$  *glauca* Nutt., very inadequately described from Fort Smith, Arkansas. The type, at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, has been most kindly lent me by Dr. Pennell.

The long-awned western extreme (Colorado and New Mexico to southern California and Lower California) was described as *Festuca pusilla* Buckl. Proc. Acad. Phil. 1862, 98 (1863) from "Upper California, Nuttall" (erroneously transcribed by Piper as "northern California"). A portion of the Nuttall material in the Gray Herbarium shows it to be the common tufted plant of southern California. It is *F. octoflora*, subsp. *hirtella* Piper, l. c. 12 (1906), although the latter subspecies (or variety) was based only on characters of pubescence which seem very inconstant, rather than on the characteristic habit, compact inflorescence and long awns.

#### GRAY HERBARIUM.

---

*PICEA RUBENS* Sarg., forma **virgata** (Rehder), comb. nov. *P. nigra*, var. *virgata* Rehder in Bailey, Cyclop. Am. Hort. iii. 1334 (1901). *P. rubra*, f. *virgata* Rehder, RHODORA, ix. 110 (1907).

By the "homonym" rule adopted at Cambridge the name *Picea rubra* (DuRoi) Link (1831) cannot be maintained, because of the earlier, though "illegitimate," *P. rubra* Dietr. (1824), a direct renaming of *Pinus Abies* L. The first unequivocal name of the American Red Spruce seems to be *P. rubens* Sarg.—M. L. FERNALD AND C. A. WEATHERBY.

---

*PHRAGMITES COMMUNIS* Trin., var. **Berlandieri** (Fournier), comb. nov. *P. Berlandieri* Fournier, Bull. Bot. Soc. France, xxiv. 178 (1877).

It has long seemed highly improbable that an indigenous plant found throughout temperate and tropical North America should be